

underlined. This Substitute Specification is being submitted in response to the Examiner's request for applicant to review and revise the specification so that it complies with 35 U.S.C. §112.

Under the provisions of 37 CFR §1.125(b) applicant submits that the Substitute Specification contains only the changes shown in the marked-up copy and does not include any new matter.

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

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1. (Twice Amended) A disposable diaper comprising:
- an elastically stretchable covering member for covering a diaper wearer's crotch and waist regions;
 - a liquid-pervious sheet for contacting with skin of said diaper wearer;
 - a liquid-absorbent core member sandwiched between said liquid-pervious sheet and said covering member;
 - discrete elastic members provided along transversal side edges of said diaper that extend circumferentially along leg-openings that are defined when the diaper is put on the diaper wearer;
 - said covering member consisting of an elastically stretchable first layer and an inelastically stretchable second layer formed with a plurality of continuous fibers, said continuous fibers being fixed to said elastically stretchable first layer in at least a pair of bonding zones spaced apart from
- 21

each other so that a ratio of L/D , where L is a length of said continuous fiber extending between said pair of bonding zones and D is a distance in straight line between said pair of bonding zones, is larger in a first zone on said covering member than in a remaining zone, so that said covering member can be more easily stretched out of a plane containing the covering member in said first zone than in said remaining zone, and said first zone being adjacent said liquid-absorbent core member and at least substantially coextensive with said liquid-absorbent core member, so that pressure exerted in said covering member by said liquid-absorbent core member will stretch the first zone out of a plane containing the covering member.

31 ^{sub P1} 2. (Twice Amended) The diaper according to Claim 1, wherein said first zone is a transversely middle zone of said diaper.

3. (Twice Amended) The diaper according to Claim 1, wherein said elastically stretchable first layer is formed of an elastically stretchable film.

4. (Twice Amended) The diaper according to Claim 1, wherein said continuous fibers of said inelastically stretchable second layer are made of polypropylene.

5. (Twice Amended) The diaper according to Claim 1, wherein said elastically stretchable first layer is formed from a liquid-impervious sheet and lies inside said second layer.

6. (Twice Amended) The diaper according to Claim 1, wherein said elastically stretchable first layer is formed from a liquid-impervious sheet and lies inside said inelastically stretchable second layer so that said elastically stretchable first layer functions as a liquid-impervious backsheet for said liquid-absorbent core member.

7. (Twice Amended) A process for making a disposable diaper having an elastically stretchable covering member for covering a diaper wearer's crotch and waist regions, a liquid-impervious sheet for contacting with skin of said diaper wearer, and a liquid-absorbent core member sandwiched between said liquid-impervious sheet and said covering member, said process comprising the steps of:

providing an elastically stretchable first layer destined to form said covering member;
providing a second layer formed with a plurality of inelastic stretchable continuous fibers;
bonding said elastically stretchable first layer and said second layer together at a plurality of intermittently formed bonding zones to thereby form a composite sheet;

stretching only a portion of said composite sheet in one direction so that said elastically stretchable first layer of said portion may be elastically stretched together with said continuous fibers;

allowing said composite sheet to contract under a contractile force of said first elastically stretchable layer to form said covering member; and

incorporating said stretched and contracted composite sheet as a cover member into a disposable diaper having a liquid-absorbent core member so that said stretched and contracted

B1 portion of said composite sheet is adjacent and at least substantially coextensive with said liquid-absorbent core member.

Please add new claims 8 and 9 as follows:

8. (New) The diaper according to Claim 1, wherein said elastically stretchable first layer is formed of a nonwoven fabric made of crimped fibers. NA

B2 9. (New) The diaper according to Claim 1, wherein said continuous fibers of said inelastically stretchable second layer are made of propylene copolymers. NA

IN THE DRAWINGS

Submitted herewith under separate cover is a Request for Approval of Drawing Amendments to which is attached photocopies of Figs. 6 and 7 with proposed changes indicated in red ink.

The Examiner is requested to acknowledge receipt and approval of the proposed drawing amendments so that applicant can proceed with have corrected formal drawings prepared.